VELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) The write-up in question has been seen. The Price Index of drugs and medicines (1981-82 = 100) increased from 166.3 in May '92 to 172.6 in January '93 and was 186.5 (Provisional) as on November 13, 1993. This shows an increase of 3.8% from May 1992 to January 1993 and 8% from January 1993 to November 13, 1993. The prices of price controlled formulations are regulated through the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987.

Status of Molasses Business

866. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State :

(a) the percentage of molasses syrup drained from raw sugar and sugar produced in the country at present ;

(b) the price of molasses sold within the country and how much is the total value of this production in terms of rupees ;

(c) the percentage of such extractions in other countries, like China, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, etc. and at what price these are sold there ;

(d) the quantity of molasses being exported per annum at present ; and

(e) the total foreign exchange earned during the year 1992-93 from the export of molasses and the value thereof in terms of rupees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Molasses syrup derived as a by-product during the manufacture of sugar is about 4% of the sugarcane utilised in the production process.

(b) The Government does not control the price of molasses any more. The total value of the production depends on the market prices, which are no more monitoring by the Government.

(c) No such study has been undertaken by the Government.

(d) and (e) During the year 1992-93, 88,949 tonnes of sugarcane molasses were exported for a value of Rs. 1083 lakhs.

Rise in Prices of Decontrolled Molasses

867. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of decontrolled molasses have hiked if so, what is the prevailing price per tonne now ;

(b) what percentage of rise in price of decontrolled molasses has taken places as compared to the price existing at the pre-decontrol level ; what are the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the sharp rise in the price has put molasses beyond the reach of all but the liquor industry ; if so, the reasons thereof, and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the animal feeds industry has also been hit by the high rate of Central and State Government taxes more particularly the duty on amino acid and high sales tax on animal feeds ; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) After decontrol, the prices of molasses are not monitored.

(c) Representations have been received from Alcohol Based Chemical Industries indicating that they were experiencing hardships mainly due to increase in the prices of molasses/alcohol.

(d) Similar representations have come from the Compound Livestock Feed Manufacturers' Association of India also.